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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 10/031,064

Atty. Docket No. Q68069

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.- 4. (canceled).

5. (currently amended): A radially self-expanding stent for implantation in a body passage comprises first and second sets of mutually counter-rotating metallic filaments which are braided together and define a tubular stent body having two ends which is mechanically biased towards a first radially expanded configuration in which it is unconstrained by externally applied forces and can be retained in a second radially compressed configuration, and in which some or all of the filament ends at the ends of the body are fixed together in pairs each consisting of counter-rotating filaments by placing the filaments over one another and placing them adjacent to and substantially parallel to one another and further comprising a join at each end fixing to retain the ends of the filaments in contact with one another, wherein some but not all of the filament ends are welded, the joins extending outward radially from a main body of the stent.

6. (original): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the join generally has a diameter of at least 1.2 times that of the diameter of the filament.

7. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the diameter of the join is no more than 3 times the diameter of the filament.

8. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein at least some of the joins provide a shoulder in a rearward axial direction.

9.- 11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the diameter of the join is less than 2.5 times the diameter of the filament.

13. (canceled).

14. (new): A stent according to Claim 5, wherein an angle at which the joins bend outward increases as the filaments extend toward the join.

15. (new): A stent according to Claim 14, wherein the increase in the angle at which the joins bend outward as the filaments extend towards the joins is between 10 and 15°.